



FOOD HISTORY – INQUIRY PROJECT

GRADE LEVEL – 4 to 12

EARLY AND CURRENT FOODS AND FOOD PRODUCTION IN BC

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1891, 22% of the population of BC (approximately 22,000) lived on 6,500 farms, mostly located on Vancouver Island, the lower mainland and in the Okanagan and Kootenay valleys
- Most of the Hudson Bay Fur Trading Forts had gardens
- Pemberton is famous for its potatoes.
- There were once several federal and provincial government experimental farms in BC
- Celery was once commercially grown in the Eagle Valley area at Malakwa, BC
- Ginseng, wasabi, and kiwi are grown in BC
- In the early 1900's over 70 fish canneries existed in BC
- A potato, known as the Cariboo spud, was once blacklisted in BC
- The Empress Hotel in Victoria is famous for its high tea.

Almost every community in BC has a story to tell about food production and consumption, past and present. Your Food History inquiry is to find out what is unique about your community.

- Research the history of the growth and production of a particular food grown, produced, raised, or harvested in your community; or a food industry; or an invention; or a restaurant or grocery store that has a history in your community; or interested food related event; or a particular farm; or a seed company; or a specialty food product produced locally (e.g., cheese, jams)
- Use a variety of sources to gather information and pictures for your report, consider:
 - Local history books (check your local library)
 - Local museums
 - Web based sources such as:
 - Interviews with local historians, community members, family members
- Consider including pictures, recipes, audio or video clips to enhance your report/presentation.